



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS JOINS LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS TO ANNOUNCE FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING EVENT

*Free Mammograms To Be Provided For Uninsured and
Underinsured Women Thursday, March 11*

At a news conference held this morning, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks joined representatives of the Women's Health Partnership (WHP) and the Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic to announce and promote a local Breast Cancer Screening Event providing free mammograms for uninsured and underinsured women over the age of 40 in Monroe and Livingston Counties. The Breast Cancer Screening Event will take place Thursday, March 11, 2004 from noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic, 170 Sawgrass Drive in Rochester.

"Many of us have heard the staggering statistics about breast cancer rates among women. Sadly, breast cancer claims the lives of about 120 women each year in Monroe County. That is why I made it a priority to join the Women's Health Partnership and Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic to help promote this critically important event which the County Health Department is a part of," said Brooks. "There are nearly 6,000 women between the ages of 40-64 in Monroe County that do not have health insurance and these are the women we want to reach and help. I encourage and urge all women eligible for these free screenings to call today and schedule an appointment."

The WHP is a joint venture among the Monroe County Health Department and the University of Rochester. The WHP is a non-profit organization that provides access to mammograms, clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, pap tests and colorectal screening. Women who have no health insurance, or whose health insurance doesn't pay for mammograms, can have their mammograms paid for by the WHP.

Dr. Nancy M. Bennett, Deputy Director of the Monroe County Health Department said, "Monroe County's self-reported mammography screening rates have already surpassed the 2010 federal health goal. While we're pleased to have achieved this milestone, we will continue to work hard to be sure that all women in our community have access to this important screening."

Dr. Wende Young of the Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic said, "The Women's Health Partnership is a wonderful organization that has widespread support and helps educate women about the availability of free mammograms. Any opportunity we have to promote these free screenings is an opportunity to catch breast cancer at an early stage. We thank County Executive Brooks for her involvement in helping us get the word out about these screenings."

Brooks commended Drs. Bennett and Young and the WHP, represented at the news conference by Pat Campbell, Director of Adult Health Community Interventions for the Center for Rochester's Health.

Participants in the March 11th free screening event must be pre-registered through the Women's Health Partnership. Women should call 585-274-6978 to schedule a mammogram appointment.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the Web at www.monroecounty.gov*

BREAST CANCER FACTS

New York ranks among the five highest states in the nation in breast cancer incidence.

Of all New York State counties, Monroe County has the second highest incidence of breast cancer. (Suffolk County on Long Island is #1.)

Breast cancer claims the lives of about 120 women each year in Monroe County.

All women, of all races, are at risk of developing breast cancer. Ninety percent of women who develop breast cancer do not have a family history of the disease.

Risk of developing breast cancer increases with age, but most breast cancers are found in women between the ages of 40 and 65.

Screening mammography can find breast cancer at the earliest, most treatable stages, before it can even be felt as a lump within the breast.

When breast cancers are found at a smaller stage, they can be cured. The smaller the cancer, the better the chance of a cure. The five-year survival rate for these small, localized cancers is 97%.

Survival rates decrease as the size of the cancer increases and spreads. Therefore, it's important to have a yearly mammogram, to find a cancer at its smallest stage.

Screening mammography is recommended yearly for all women over age 40.